IN THE CLAIMS:

CANCEL claims 1-19 without prejudice.

Add the following new claims:

--22. A method for maintaining an aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin in a non-frozen or non-freeze-dried liquid form, comprising:

preparing an aqueous solution having a pH value in a range from 5 to 7.0, wherein said solution contains soluble thrombomodulin and contains buffer component(s) having a buffering action in a pH range between 5 and 7.0, wherein the aqueous solution of thrombomodulin has either the following characteristic, a) or b), wherein

a) said aqueous solution further comprises a surfactant and said aqueous solution is packed aseptically in a container, or

b) said aqueous solution is in the form of a prefilled syringe preparation and said prefilled syringe preparation is packed aseptically in a syringe so as to exclude any substantial gas space therein.

--23. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the aqueous solution further comprises a surfactant and said aqueous solution is packed aseptically in a container, said preparation is capable of being stored/transported in a liquid.

--24. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the aqueous injection solution is in the form of a prefilled syringe preparation and said prefilled syringe preparation is packed aseptically in a syringe so as to exclude any substantial gas space therein, said preparation is capable of being stored/transported in a liquid form.

--25. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said aqueous solution further comprises a surfactant, said aqueous solution is in the form of a prefilled syringe preparation, said prefilled syringe preparation is packed aseptically in a syringe container so as to exclude any substantial gas space therein, said preparation is capable of being stored/transported in a liquid form.

--26. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin is a peptide which is characterized in that it has a molecular weight of 66,000 $\pm$ 10,000, as determined by an SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in non-reduced state, exhibits a function for accelerating the activation of protein C by thrombin and is soluble in water for injection at least at a concentration of 6 mg/ml.

--27. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin exhibits the function for accelerating the

activation of protein C by thrombin and consists of either the following i) or ii), namely,

i) a thrombomodulin which is constituted of an amino acid sequence composes of amino acid residues from the 19th site to the 516th site of the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 1 or

ii) a thrombomodulin which is constituted of an amino acid sequence composed of those amino acid residues in which one or more amino acid residues in an amino acid sequence given above are replaced or removed or one or more amino acid residues are added thereto.

--28. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin is selected from the group consisting of that constituted of an amino acid sequence composed of an amino acid residues from the 19th site to the 516th site of the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 1, that constituted of an amino acid sequence composed of amino acid residues from the 19th site to the 516th site of the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 2, that obtained by transfecting a DNA segment decoding an amino acid sequence given in the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 1 to a host cell, and that obtained by transfecting a DNA segment coding an amino acid sequence given in the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 2 to a host cell.

--29. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the buffer component comprises buffer component based on phosphate and acetate.

--30. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pH value of the aqueous solution is in the range from 5.5 to 6.5.

--31. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the prefilled syringe preparation, is characterized in that the aqueous solution of thrombomodulin occupies the syringe container in such an amount that residual gas space therein does not exceed 15% by volume in terms of the proportion of gas space.

--32. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the prefilled syringe preparation, is characterized in that the aqueous solution of thrombomodulin occupies the syringe container in such an amount that residual gas space therein does not exceed 10% by volume in terms of the proportion of gas space.

--33. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the prefilled syringe preparation, is characterized in that the aqueous solution of thrombomodulin occupies the syringe container in such an amount that residual gas space therein does not exceed 5% by volume in terms of the proportion of gas space.

--34. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the inner diameter of the syringe container for the prefilled syringe preparation is 8.6 mm or less.

--35. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said aqueous solution contains 0.05 to 15 mg/ml of soluble thrombomodulin.

--36. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin in a non-frozen or non-freeze-dried liquid form, characterized in that the aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin has a pH value in the range from 5 to 7.0, contains soluble thrombomodulin, contains buffer component(s) having a buffering action in a pH range between 5 and 7.0 and contains a surfactant, said preparation has been packed aseptically in a container, and wherein said preparation is capable of being stored/transported in a liquid form.

--37. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin in a non-frozen or non-freeze-dried liquid form, characterized in that the aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin is in the form of a prefilled syringe preparation which has a pH value in the range from 5 to 7.0, contains a soluble thrombomodulin and contains buffer component(s) having a buffering action in a pH range between 5 and 7.0, said prefilled

syringe preparation is packed aseptically in a syringe container, so as to exclude any substantial gas space therein, and wherein said preparation is capable of being stored/transported in a liquid form.

--38. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin in a non-frozen or non-freeze-dried liquid form, characterized in that the aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin is a prefilled syringe preparation which has a pH value in the range from 5 to 7.0, contains soluble thrombomodulin, contains buffer component(s) having a buffering action in a pH range between 5 and 7.0 and contains a surfactant, said prefilled syringe preparation is packed aseptically in a syringe container so as to exclude any substantial gas space therein.

--39. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin as claimed in claim 36, wherein the prefilled syringe preparation is for subcutaneous injection or for intramuscular injection.

--40. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin as claimed in claim 36, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin is selected from the group consisting of that constituted of the amino acid sequence composed of the amino acid

residues from the 19th site to the 516th site of the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 1, that constituted of an amino acid sequence composed of the amino acid residues from the 19th site to the 516th site of the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 2, that obtained by transfecting a DNA segment coding an amino acid sequence given in the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 1 to a host cell and that obtained by transfecting a DNA segment coding an amino acid sequence given in the sequence listing SEQ ID NO: 2 to a host cell.

--41. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin as claimed in claim 36, wherein the pH of the buffer solution is in the range from 5.5 to 6.5.

--42. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin as claimed in claim 36, wherein the prefilled syringe preparation is characterized in that the aqueous solution of thrombomodulin occupies the syringe container in such an amount that residual gas space therein does not exceed 15% by volume in terms of the proportion of gas space.

--43. An aqueous injection preparation of thrombomodulin as claimed in claim 36, wherein the prefilled syringe preparation is characterized in that the aqueous solution of thrombomodulin occupies the syringe container in such an